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# ROBINS RevUp

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Vol. 49 No. 50 Friday, December 17, 2004 Robins Air Force Base, Ga.

News you  
can use

President nominates  
Reservists for stars

Fourteen colonels and seven brigadier generals were nominated by the president Nov. 26 for promotion to the next higher rank.

Two of the nominees are Brig. Gen. Martin M. Mazick, director of operations and Col. Elizabeth A. Grote director of logistics, at Headquarters Air Force Reserve Command.

General Mazick wears the Air Force uniform as an air reserve technician and works as a civil servant in the senior executive service. He manages the Air Force Reserve flying program. Additionally he manages the Command's intelligence program, aerial port program, space program, Aerospace Expeditionary Forces Cell, and a 24-hour command center. He arrived at Robins in August 2003.

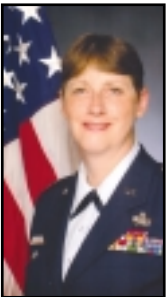
Colonel Grote is responsible for ensuring the aircraft are ready to go. Her logistics directorate is comprised of 120 military, civilian, air reserve technician and traditional Reserve personnel who provide supply, transportation, planning, contracting and aircraft maintenance oversight for day-to-day operations of 673 flying and support units.

She is an air reserve technician who arrived at Robins in March 2002 as the assistant director of logistics and assumed her current duties in May 2003.

— 1st Lt. Lance Patterson



Brig. Gen. Martin M. Mazick has been nominated for his second star.



Col. Elizabeth A. Grote has been nominated for her first star.

Southern ice



U.S. Air Force photos by Staff Sgt. Brian Bahret

In a blur of motion, Alex Frey speeds past a Predator defender during a Men's Ice Hockey League game held Tuesday in Macon. The Predators ousted the Stars 6-4. The league, which meets several times per week at the Macon Centreplex, is mostly comprised of employees from Robins Air Force Base.

Hockey's an experience  
for all levels of talent

By Staff Sgt Brian Bahret

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Until recently, the only frozen water Denny Ennis tasted was ice pressed to his lips while sipping a drink. In the last two weeks he's found himself sprawled face first on a thin sheet of ice more times than he cares to admit.

At age 54, Ennis, a cabinet maker from Macon, decided to start a new hobby to meet people – he chose ice hockey. The only catch; he's never skated before. Ever.

Now Ennis finds himself

Please see **HOCKEY, 2A**



Will Dewberry, #63, fires a wrist shot at goalie Josh Tolk, a C-5 engineer with the Center's Strategic Airlift Special Programs Office. Tolk's team, the Predators, won the game 6-4. At 15, Dewberry is one of the youngest players in the league.

General refers  
double murder  
case for capital  
punishment trial

78th Air Base Wing  
Office of Public Affairs

**INSIDE**  
Trial date set in murder  
for hire case  
Page 2A

A Robins Airman charged for the on-base killings of an Airman and his wife will be on trial for his life when the case goes to court next year.

Late Tuesday, Maj. Gen. Mike Collings, Center commander, referred the case of U.S. vs. Witt to a general court-martial as a capital case, which carries the maximum penalty of death. No date is set for the trial, which is likely to be in the spring of 2005 in the Bibb County Courthouse in Macon.

Senior Airman Andrew Paul Witt is charged with two specifications of premeditated murder, covered under Article 118 of the Uniform Code of Military Justice. He is charged with stabbing to death with a knife Senior Airman Andrew Schliepsiek and his wife, Jamie, at their

on-base residence in the early morning hours of July 5.

Airman Witt is also charged with one specification of attempted murder, under Article 80 of the UCMJ, for a similar attack on Senior Airman Jason King on the same day.

The referral by General Collings, the general court-martial convening authority for Robins, follows an Article 32 investigation conducted in the Bibb County Courthouse Nov. 15-16. The Article 32 investigating officer, Col. Mary Boone, chief military judge, U.S. Air Force Central Circuit, forwarded her recommendation to the Robins installation commander, Col.

Please see **CASE, 2A**

Exercise aims to hone  
field communication  
for 5th Mob, Royal AF

By Holly L. Birchfield  
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Members of the 5th Combat Communications Group recently flew across the world to bridge the communication gap between the U.S and Royal Air Forces in the deployed environment.

Thirty-one Airmen from the 51st Combat Communications and 5th Combat Communications Support squadrons and an Airman from the Air Combat Communication Command at Langley Air Force Base, Va., arrived at Fairford Royal Air Force Base, England, in late November for Exercise United Architecture – a two-week annual exercise aimed

Please see **MOB, 2A**



Courtesy photo

From left, Airman 1st Class Lisa Lantz, Sgt. Neil Richardson, Royal Air Force, Cpl. Geoff Brooks, Royal Air Force, and Staff Sgt. Brent Baty work together during an exercise aimed at improving communication between the two air forces.

TWIN PROGRAM MANAGERS CELEBRATE A HALF CENTURY AT ROBINS



Bobby, left, and Billy Edwards will receive pins for 50 years of service at Robins Wednesday. The 69-year-old identical twins joined federal service at Robins Dec. 29, 1954.

By Lanorris Askew  
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Many things have changed at Robins in the past 50 years. There have been runway extensions, new buildings, new units and a string of commanders, but there has been one constant – the presence of Billy and Bobby Edwards.

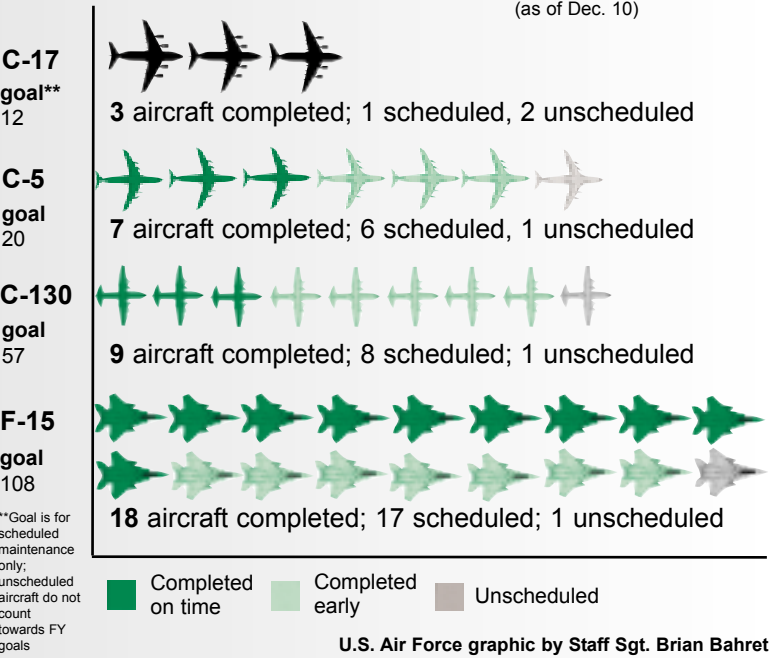
The 69-year-old identical twins joined federal service here Dec. 29, 1954, shortly after graduating from high school, and say they've never looked back.

"It has been a very interesting, challenging and rewarding career," said Bobby, the younger of the two by 15 minutes. "I've enjoyed it tremendously, and I wouldn't trade it for anything in the world."

The younger Mr. Edwards said although a lot of people don't like their jobs, he has been

Please see **TWIN, 4A**

Aircraft Maintenance Output  
fiscal 2005 year-to-date production  
(as of Dec. 10)



Robins  
3-day  
forecast  
Courtesy of 78th  
OSS/OSW

Today  
Partly to mostly  
cloudy

56/30

Saturday  
Partly to mostly  
cloudy

54/32

Sunday  
Partly cloudy  
with chance  
of afternoon rain

47/34

What's  
inside

RevUp Year in Review **3A**  
DoD selects first group for National Security Personnel System **5A**  
Force protection barrier project alters buildings' parking lots **10A**  
Put Your Hands Together For... **4B**



# Trial date set in murder for hire case

78th Air Base Wing  
Office of Public Affairs

The court-martial trial for a Robins sergeant accused in an alleged murder for hire scheme will convene in the base courtroom Jan. 18.

Staff Sgt. Matthew W. Gladue, 51st Combat Communications Squadron, is charged with criminal conspiracy to commit murder, solicitation to commit murder and obstruction of justice.

Sergeant Gladue and his

wife, Jessica, were arrested Oct. 13 by the Houston County Sheriff’s Department for criminal conspiracy to commit murder and criminal solicitation to commit murder. They are accused with attempting to hire a hit man to kill a witness who indicated Sergeant Gladue threatened the lives of two squadron co-workers.

Along with the conspiracy and solicitation charges, the Air Force is charging Sergeant Gladue with attempting to hire someone to plant illegal drugs

in the automobile of the witness.

The Air Force charges against Sergeant Gladue carry a maximum penalty of life imprisonment.

The sergeant allegedly told a co-worker on several occasions between October 2003 and July 2004 of his intent to kill two squadron supervisors, according to the charges preferred by Sergeant Gladue’s squadron commander.

The firearm charge alleges Sergeant Gladue violated a

lawful order by the base commander by bringing a 9 mm semi-automatic pistol onto the base in his vehicle between April and July of this year.

The Houston County Sheriff’s Department is working with the 78th Security Forces Squadron on the investigations. Base authorities have jurisdiction over the case against Sergeant Gladue. The Houston County District Attorney’s Office retains jurisdiction over Mrs. Gladue’s case.

## CASE

Continued from 1A

Greg Patterson, 78th Air Base Wing commander. Colonel Patterson then forwarded the case to General Collings.

An Article 32 hearing is essentially a pre-trial investigation mandated by the Uniform Code of Military Justice prior to general court martial proceedings.

## MOB

Continued from 1A

at streamlining British and U.S. operational communications in the Middle East. The Airmen returned to Robins Dec. 10.

While this type of exercise has been conducted among the Royal Air Force and other countries, it’s the first for the U.S. and British troops working together.

Capt. Chris Burch, lead planner for the U.S. Air Force side of the interoperability exercise, said Airmen from Robins are putting in eight to 10 work hours a day, along side an estimated 20 British troops from Fairford’s Tactical Communications Wing, with the ultimate goal of integrating American and British communications systems.

“Our goal in this exercise is to figure out a way to use one

set of equipment and one set of communication lines that could be used by the Royal Air Force and the U.S. Air Force (in the deployed location),” he said. “Before, we had to send e-mail to an Air Force exchange officer working with the Brits and he would pull it from one system and translate it into another via disk. It was a very laborious process for us to talk to each other.”

The captain said in the future, he hopes the two allied services will be able to communicate by phone and e-mail the same way they do with those in their own countries.

“We’re trying to combine our communication lines for unclassified information transfer to create a single source that would reduce the need for a lot of infrastructure,” he said.

Captain Burch said exercise results will be used to create an interoperability manual that

lays out the exact equipment and configuration settings used to make the two Air Forces’ systems talk to each other, making communication between the Royal Air Force and U.S. forces as seamless as possible.

While troops have run into technical snags along the way, Flight Lieutenant Rob Braybrook, officer commanding the Electronic Engineering Flight of the Royal Air Force’s Tactical Communications Wing, said both sets of troops have learned lessons along the way.

“We’re hoping to increase our operational capability,” he said. “What we’re hoping is that by our guys talking to (their) guys and doing some technical work, we’ll be able to improve our capability operationally and reduce the amount of assets we use when we do joint operations together. I think it will ease an awful lot of situ-

ations we generally find ourselves in and we’ll be able to share equipment and infrastructure – which will ensure operational (communications) are up quicker and will speed deployments definitely.”

According to Maj. Ken Macie, exchange officer with Headquarters Strike Command at High Wycomb Royal Air Force Base, England, who served as the liaison among the 5th CCG, headquarters Air Combat Communications Command, and the Royal Air Force, troops had great success in establishing interconnectivity between U.S. and U.K. communications systems

With ever-changing technology needs and capabilities, Flight Lieutenant Braybrook said he expects to have similar exercises in the future between U.S. and Royal Air Force troops to keep the two services communicating smoothly.

## HOCKEY

Continued from 1A

sharing ice with the Men’s Ice Hockey League, comprised primarily of Robins Air Force Base employees.

The first game was tough for the novice player who spent most of the time slamming into something or somebody.

“I’m a glutton for punishment,” he said. “At first I couldn’t stop, so I’d just hit things.”

Now he’s learned to snowplow and is resorting to glancing blows rather than train wrecks.

Macon’s Men’s Ice Hockey League, which has been around since 1996, is open to players 15 to 56 years old of all skill levels.

“We have some very good players and some who have a hard time skating up and down the ice,” said Steve Ryan, C-130 support shop supervisor.

Ryan said he’s never played organized hockey before joining the league in 1999. But he’s adopted the league’s care-free attitude towards the competition.

“We really don’t care if you win or lose,” he said. “Everyone knows they have to get up for work in the morning.”

Because Robins draws in such a diverse population,

most players are associated with the base, said George Doust, league organizer and player. “It’s neat to sit beside a guy who flies [in a jet] by day and than puts on his skates and plays hockey by night,” he added.

Doust grew up in Canada playing hockey since age 5. Before moving to Cordele, Ga., he never met anyone in the military. While the league is helping Doust satisfy his craving for hockey, it’s also helping him learn about the men and women serving in the military. “They’re regular everyday people; that’s the best part.”

According to Josh Tolk, a C-5 engineer with the Strategic Airlift Special Programs Office, the league began with four teams each with 15 to 20 players. Deployments have forced one team to disband; its remaining players divided among the surviving teams.

Tolk and the other players are constantly searching for additional people to boost the league’s ranks. “We don’t care who we get,” said Tolk. “We’re just happy to have enough people to play.”

He added that novices are encouraged to join. “The players will take you under their wing and show you the ropes.”

As a novice, Ennis said he relies heavily on teammates for tips on skating and on the rules.

“Most guys will tell you what to do,” said Ennis. “The rest just laugh.”

Ennis used the other players’ knowledge to learn quickly. “The first game, everyone was zipping around me,” he said. Now he’s steadier on his feet. “Next year will be a totally different game, because I’ll have a year’s worth of embarrassment behind me.”

While the rookie-skater Ennis has learned the ropes from his team mates, he offers advice to other first-time players: “I don’t care how good you are, you’re going to fall,” he said. “It doesn’t take long to

### Want to play?

The Men’s Ice Hockey League plays at the Macon Centreplex. Admission to the league costs \$325 per player, but is prorated for late registration. The cost includes a jersey, team socks and helps off-set the cost of renting the rink. The season runs through the end January. For more information, call George Doust at 971-7974 or 229-276-1606 extension 5266.

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pick up on the game, and after you learn it’s just a matter of practice.”

## SERVICES HOLIDAY HOURS

**FACILITIES OPEN:**  
**Base Library**, open Monday - Thursday and Dec. 27 - 29 from 10 a.m. - 7 p.m., Thursday and Dec. 30 from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.,  
**Bowling Center**, open Wednesday and Thursday, open Dec. 26 from 1 - 6 p.m ; Dec. 27 - 30 from 11 a.m. - 5 p.m., open at 9 p.m. Dec. 31  
**Fitness Center**, open Dec. 24 and 31 from 8 a.m. - 2 p.m., Jan. 1 from 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.,  
**Flight Line Kitchen**, open  
**Golf Course**, open Dec. 24 and 31 from 8 a.m. - 2 p.m., Jan. 1 from 8 a.m. - 2 p.m.,  
**Lodging**, normal hours of operation  
**Officers’ Club**, open 6 p.m. Dec. 31 for New Year’s festivities  
**Wood Shop**, open Monday and Jan. 2 (normally closed on Mondays)  
**Wynn Dining Facility**, open Dec. 25 from 6 - 8 a.m.; 11 a.m. - 4 p.m.  
**Youth Center**, open Monday - Jan. 3 from noon - 7 p.m.  
**FACILITIES CLOSED:**  
**Aero Club**, administration and sales closed Dec. 24 and 31  
**Auto Skills Center**, closed Dec. 24 - 26 and Dec. 31 - Jan. 1  
**Base Library**, closed Dec. 24 - 26 and Dec. 31 - Jan. 2  
**Base Restaurant**, closed Dec. 24 and 31  
**Mobile trucks**, routes 1 and 5 will be closed Monday - Dec. 24; all closed Dec. 31  
**Snack bars buildings 645 and 376** will be closed Monday - Dec. 24; all snack bars close at 1 p.m. Monday - Dec. 23 and Dec. 27 - Jan. 3  
**Vending** will be closed Thursday - Jan. 2  
**Bowling Center**, closed Dec. 24 and 25 and Jan. 1  
**CDC East & West**, closed Dec. 24 and 31  
**Enlisted Club**, closed Dec.

24 and 25; express lunch buffet line closed Tuesday - Jan. 2; Press Box closed today - Jan. 1  
**Equipment Rental Center**, closed Dec. 24 - 26 and Dec. 31 - Jan. 2  
**Family Child Care**, closed Dec. 24 and 31  
**Fitness Center**, closed Dec. 25  
**Flight Line Dining Facility**, closed Dec. 24 and 31  
**Food Service office**, closed Dec. 24 - 31  
**Golf Course**, closed Dec. 25 and Jan. 1  
**Honor Guard, Mortuary Affairs, Readiness**, normal hours of operation, Administrative office closed Dec. 24 and Dec. 31  
**Human Resources office**, closed Dec. 24 - 31  
**Indoor Pool (Rasile)**, closed Dec. 25  
**Information, Tickets and Travel**, closed Dec. 24 and 31  
**Japanese Grill**, closed Dec. 24 and 31  
**Marketing**, closed Dec. 24 and 31  
**Nature Center**, closed Dec. 24 - 26 and Dec. 31 - Jan. 2  
**Officers’ Club**, closed Dec. 24 - 26 and Jan. 1  
**Pizza Depot**, close Dec. 24 - 26 and Dec. 31 - Jan. 2  
**Resource Management office, NAF**, closed Dec. 24 and 31  
**Skeet Range**, closed Dec. 25 and 26 and Jan. 1 and 2  
**Skills Development Center**, closed Dec. 24 - Jan. 2  
**Smith Community Center**, closed Wednesday - Jan. 1  
**Teen Center**, closed Thursday - Dec. 25 and Dec. 31 and Jan. 1  
**Vet services**, closed Dec. 24 - Jan. 2  
**Wood Shop**, closed Dec. 24 and 25, Dec. 28 and Dec. 31 - Jan. 1  
**Youth Center**, closed Dec. 24 and 31

# 2004: A look back at Robins’ news

## JANUARY

Robins is in the early stages of two military construction projects that will ultimately change the face of functional test flight here.

The \$16 million projects – including the construction of a consolidated aircraft maintenance facility and the reconfiguration of an aircraft ramp – will provide Robins with the infrastructure for a consolidated functional test area capable of supporting all aircraft. Construction is expected to be complete by 2006.

## FEBRUARY

Workers with the Maintenance Directorate’s C-5 Production Branch and members of the 653rd Combat Logistics Support Squadron worked together to repair battle damage on a C-5 aircraft hit by a missile during takeoff in Iraq Jan. 8. Before its return, the 653rd CLSS crew made temporary repairs to the plane so it could be flown. Once at Robins, the C-5 Production Branch made permanent repairs to return the aircraft to the Air Mobility Command so it could go back into the airlift rotation.

## MARCH

U.S. Sen. Saxby Chambliss, R-Ga., visited Robins March 15 to address the need for Guardsmen and Reservists in the military and the importance of increasing their benefits for improved quality of life, at a luncheon hosted by the Carl Vinson Memorial Chapter of the Air Force Association and Chapter 36 of the Reserve Officers Association at the Officer’s Club.

## APRIL

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers began work in early April on a \$4.9 million project that will give Robins a new main entrance and visitor’s center by August 2005. The project will provide Robins with a new main entry road, an Air Force standard main gate signage, and a new visitor center complex complete with a covered gate entrance facility, visitor cen-



U.S. Air Force file photo by Sue Sapp

**JUNE:** From left, Senior Airman Ellen Crytzer, Tech. Sgt. Andre Killkelley and Airman 1st Class Jacob Kaminski were among the Airmen from the 78th Logistics Readiness Squadron who deployed to Iraq in late June to support combat convoy operations.

ter and inspection shelter – and will alleviate incoming base traffic issues on Ga. Highway 247 and Watson Boulevard.

## MAY

The Maintenance Directorate and the 339th Flight Test Squadron put in a lot of hard work and long hours to make sure aircraft were ready to return to their home bases before Robins runway closed May 28 for repair. In addition to getting aircraft out on time, several aircraft were flown in early to prevent loss of work time while the runway was under repair. Those who work on the F-15 worked more than 1,000 overtime hours due to the rescheduling of aircraft.

## JUNE

Twenty-one Airmen with the 78th Logistics Readiness Squadron’s vehicle operations deployed to Iraq in late

June to support combat convoy operations. A six-week pre-deployment training course provided the Airmen with needed skills in weapons qualification and weapons employment, individual and team movements, map/compass/Global Positioning System navigation, troop leadership procedures, convoy operations and urban warfare training scenarios.

## JULY

Col. Greg Patterson assumed command of the 78th Air Base Wing. Colonel Patterson came to Robins from Randolph Air Force Base, Texas, where he served as the commander of the 12th Mission Support Group. The July 2 ceremony took place at the Museum of Aviation.

## AUGUST

The Center’s Combat Electronics Systems Directorate implemented a history making 10-year, \$3.6 billion

corporate contract with Rockwell-Collins Corporation, a leading supplier of Combat Communications, Navigation and Avionics systems, Aug. 6. The contract is the largest single vendor contract ever signed here and aims to cut back on the number of contracts written, reduce the amount of administrative lead time for procurement actions and allow for the sharing of data between government and industry. The contract, which went into effect immediately, builds a bridge between government and industry that takes advantage of the expertise both entities bring to the table.

## SEPTEMBER

As Robins welcomed in the month of September nature unleashed a triad of storms two of which precipitated the opening of Robins’ gates to provide refuge to hundreds of evacuees. About 200 military and civilian workers from the 78th Civil Engineer

Squadron worked to clear small debris from around the base, while contract ground crews removed larger debris including about 75 downed trees left by Tropical Storm Frances. The Robins weather flight also played a role keeping the base populace aware of the storm’s track. Hurricane Ivan, the second of the three storms, brought more than 250 people, the majority of which were from Eglin Air Force Base, Fla., into base housing, dormitories and other shelters on base.

## OCTOBER

The Center Maintenance Directorate’s Software Engineering Division became the first Department of Defense aviation community facility to receive the highest possible rating of Level 5. To receive the rating, the division underwent a Capability Maturity Model Integration appraisal by the Software Engineering Institute, a federally funded research and development center of Carnegie Mellon University. The team spoke with 80 individuals and reviewed 1,100 plus documents. At the end of the review, the team confirmed that the division had accomplished the goals for the Level 5 ratings. In addition to reaching level five before any other aviation community facility they did so while skipping over level four.

## NOVEMBER

Robins welcomed the focused augmentation and risk reduction, or FARR team, a cross-functional Air Force team comprised of more than 200 people which are taking a look into processes here to help the Center goal of becoming a more valued team member of the world’s most respected air and space force, and further the ideal of “People First, Mission Always.” The team is working alongside the Robins work force identifying any risks that might exist or areas where we can make Robins a safer place to work, while helping to improve teamwork. The ultimate goal is a safer, more productive and more cooperative team effort throughout the Center.



# TWIN

Continued from 1A

lucky to work with some excellent people who have made his job a joy.

“I guess that’s why I’m still here - because I love my job,” he said.

Born and reared in Perry, Ga., the two moved to the city of Warner Robins in 1947. After graduating from Perry High School, they began their post-secondary education at Georgia Alabama Business College in Macon.

While attending the business school they saw a posted notice telling interested individuals how to apply for employment on the base.

“Everyone was filling out applications, and we did too,” said Billy. “We were notified to come and take the examination that was required to process us into government employment and the rest is history.”

Testing for base employment was done at the old Sears Building on 3rd Street in Macon at that time. Since then that building and many of their other memories have faded away, but the love of their work remains.

The mostly farming community of Perry has grown up. There’s no longer a steam whistle beckoning farm workers to lunch, and what once only consisted of a few old buildings has blossomed into the largest industrial complex in the state.

“Warner Robins is a grand spot to be,” said Billy. “It has just mushroomed, and now it’s a big city. It’s international; it’s so different, and we like it.”

The brothers have seen a lot of changes at Robins since their arrival as supply clerks a half century ago.

“Our first job was to keep up with the materials in the bins in the warehouse,” said Billy. The brothers kept their records in a way that’s very different from the way the job is done now - they used a pad and pencil.

“It was all manual then,” he said, “There were no computers or automated processes. Even adding machines were

very rare.

The buildings, he explained, were old wooden pre-war structures, some built out of blocks, with no central heat and air. To stay warm in the winter they used wooded potbellied stoves.

“Things have really changed,” said Bobby. “It was very primitive, but we thought it was modern.”

According to the two, while their milestone of 50 years is unique, their family has always been a part of Robins.

Their mother, father and brother also worked here, and the family has a total of more than 120 years of service.

“Our father was a hydraulics bearings specialist, our mother was a supply specialist, and our brother worked in engineering,” said Billy.

Looking back on their time here, the brothers both have fond memories and no regrets.

“This career has given me opportunities to travel all over the world, opportunities that I wouldn’t have otherwise had,” said Bobby. “People don’t have those kinds of opportunities every day.”

Billy, who has traveled to 27 different countries, agreed.

“This career is a necessary evil,” he said. “If our fighting men and women didn’t have us backing them, we wouldn’t be here today. Someone else would be controlling our country. We wouldn’t be voting or have other privileges.”

They take that supporting role very seriously.

“I don’t have any plans of giving it up,” said Bobby. “When people ask what I plan to do now that I am getting my 50-year pin, I say ‘I may be here for 20 more years, do you think I could make it?’ They ask are you sick in the head, and I say no. Everybody has got to be somewhere, and if I like what I’m doing, then that’s what counts.”

He said there aren’t many people who make this mark.

“Most people say give me 30 years at 55 and let me go home, well at 55 I wasn’t ready to go home.”

“When you find a job you love put your heart and soul into it and keep on going,” said Billy.

# Congressional support



U.S. Air Force photos by Sue Sapp



U.S. Congressman Jack Kingston, a member of the House Appropriations Committee, visited Robins Dec. 10. The purpose of his visit was to note the disrepair and hear about proposed renovations to buildings 300 and 301.

Top from left, D.R. Moody, Center Electronics Sustainment Navigation Engineering branch chief, Col. Lemoyne Blackshear, 78th Civil Engineer Group commander, Faye Williams, Center Office of Public Affairs and Strategic Communications, and Col. Greg Patterson, 78th Air Base WIng commander, listen as Congressman Kingston discusses the proposed renovations.

Right, Bonnie M. Jones, Center Electronic Sustainment director, and Congressman Kingston tour Building 300.

Above, Congressman Kingston gets a closer look at mold growing on the wall in Building 300.



# DoD selects first group for National Security Personnel System

Navy Secretary Gordon England announced today the activities selected to take part in the initial implementation of the human resources and appeals elements of the Department of Defense National Security Personnel System (NSPS).

Mr. England, who serves as the DoD senior executive overseeing NSPS, indicated that the employees slated for conversion will be included in groupings called Spirals. Spiral One will include approximately 300,000 general schedule, U.S.-based Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force and other Department of Defense civilian employees, and will be rolled out in three phases over an 18-month period beginning as early as July. The first group of employees will number about 60,000.

At Robins, most employees are in the third phase, scheduled for implementation in the summer of 2006.

In addition, Mr. England announced the NSPS Labor Relations system is scheduled to be implemented across the Department of Defense by summer 2005.

Since NSPS was signed into law Nov. 24, 2003, DoD officials and the Office of Personnel and Management have been working with DoD employees, including supervisors, managers, human resources and equal employment opportunity practitioners, general counsel and financial management professionals, and union officials to develop design options for the new civilian personnel management system.

The proposed regulations will appear in the Federal Register this winter, which will initiate a formal public comment period, as well as a period for a formal “meet and confer” process with employee representatives to discuss the proposed regulations. Upon completion of the comment period, the department will develop more specific implementing regulations, which are expected to be finalized in the spring.

The announcement of the first phase of Spiral One participants at this time allows the leadership of those affected organizations to position themselves and look ahead to help prepare DoD employees for the conversion. This will include training in what are called “soft skills,” such as interpersonal communication, team building,

and conflict management, to help people adjust to the change.

Spiral Two will comprise the remainder of the eligible work force and will be initiated following an assessment of Spiral One and after the secretary of defense certifies the Department’s performance management system. The law provides that the NSPS human resources system may not apply to organizations with more than 300,000 employees until the secretary of defense determines and certifies that the department has a performance management system in place that meets the statutory criteria established for the NSPS performance management system. Spiral One will provide the basis for this certification prior to the deployment of Spiral Two. Spiral

Three will comprise the DoD labs should current legislative restrictions be eliminated.

Congress authorized the new personnel system as part of the fiscal 2004 National Defense Authorization Act.

“NSPS provides an opportunity to improve the effectiveness of the department through a simplified personnel management system that will improve the way it hires and assigns, as well as compensate and reward its employees,” said Mr. England. “It will provide the department with a modern, flexible and agile human resource system that can be more responsive to the national security environment, while preserving employee protections and benefits.”

In a written welcoming statement to all employee par-

ticipants in Spiral One, Mary Lacey, program executive officer for NSPS, said, “We will gain experience with the procedures we put in place, and I am counting on you to provide feedback in identifying any improvements as we implement the system to the entire work force.”

Mr. England called the implementation of NSPS a historic occasion that will provide challenges and opportunities to manage change in the human resources arena in a beneficial and productive way to support the modern missions of the Department of Defense.

The new system will be fully implemented in the July 2007/January 2008 timeframe.

– *Compiled from Defense Department news releases and staff reports*

# ROBINS BULLETIN BOARD

*To have an item listed in the bulletin board, send it to Angela Trunzo at angela.trunzo@robins.af.mil by 4 p.m. Monday prior to the Friday of intended publication.*

### Cell phone available for families of deployed

As a gift of thanks, Dell Moore, a contract employee with the Depot Maintenance Accounting and Production System office, is loaning her cell phone, along with more than 11,000 minutes of air time, to the Family Support Center for families of deployed military, with the rank of staff sergeant and below, to keep in touch with loved ones.

Calls, in 30 minute increments, are allowed to family and friends in the continental U.S., including Hawaii and Puerto Rico (but excluding Alaska). Military family members may make an appointment to use the phone at the Family Support Center Annex in Building 945 today from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m., Saturday and Sunday from 7:30 to 4 p.m. and Monday until Thursday from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m. Calls must be made at the FSC Annex and are available by appointment only. For more information, contact the center at 926-1256 or the center's annex at 926-3453.

### Robins Network 56

Robins Network 56 meets at 10 a.m. today at the Enlisted Club. Fred Wilson, Big Brother/Big Sister Program of Warner Robins, will be the guest speaker. Elections for 2005 will be held. For more information, call Tech. Sgt. Robyn Owens at 926-1621.

### AAFES holiday party closing

In observance of the local AAFES Christmas Party, the exchange food facilities, MCSS and the Service Station will close at 6 p.m. today, with the exception of the main BX, which will be open from 9 a.m.-8 p.m., and the main Shoppette, which will be open from 7 a.m.-8 p.m. All facilities will re-open at normal hours Saturday.

### Base Legal Assistance Office

The Base Legal Assistance Office will not be scheduling appointments for Monday through Thursday and Dec. 27-30. For emergencies, call 926-3961 extension 111.

### Health Morale Welfare VTCs

Robins Video Teleconference Center facilitator is scheduling Health Morale Welfare VTCs, now through Dec. 30, for family and friends of deployed military members. Calls will be conducted at mutually agreed upon times, during the duty hours of 7 a.m. to 6 p.m., Monday through Friday, and will be limited to 30 minute increments. Family and friends should contact their deployed military members, those on remote assignment and temporary duty assignment, to set up a VTC time before scheduling. Mission-related VTCs will take priority over morale calls. For more information, contact Roy Busselle at 926-3637.

### Tax center needs volunteers

The Base Tax Center needs volunteers to help active duty and retired military members and their dependents in the filing of income tax returns. Military members who wish to volunteer should notify their first sergeant through their supervisors. The deadline to volunteer is Monday. Team members will receive free training in the field of computerized income tax preparation. The tax center will be open from Jan. 24 to April 15 from

1 to 5 p.m. During that time, team members will prepare and file income tax returns for eligible clients. Questions may be directed to Staff Sgt. Davonna S. Cromwell at 926-9276.

### Motorcycle course deadline

The Center commander's deadline for the new Motorcycle Safety Program requirements is Dec. 31. Military members are required to complete Motorcycle Safety Foundation training prior to riding on or off base. Contact the Center Safety Office at 926-6271 to sign up.

Operators must also carry an approved motorcycle rider's course completion card when operating a motorcycle.

### AF Reserve Palace Chase briefing

There will be a Palace Chase Force Shaping Brief Jan. 12 at 10 a.m. This one hour briefing will be conducted in Building 905, Room 240. The Palace Chase program is an early release program which allows active duty Air Force officers and enlisted

to request to transfer from active military service to an Air Reserve Component. There are many opportunities in the Air Force Reserve for you to continue your education, cross train and serve near your home. For more information, contact Master Sgt. Danny R. Varga at 327-7367

### Arkansas Air Guard vacancies

The 223rd Combat Communication Squadron in Hot Springs, Ark., has tradi-

tional Guard vacancies for individuals that are separating from the active duty Air Force or who are qualified for the Palace Chase/Palace Front Program in the following: AFSC's 2E1X1, 3C0X1, 3C251, 2E2X1, 2E6X1, 2E1X3 and 3E1X1. Cross training is available. The following officer position is available: electrical engineer. For more information, contact Master Sgt. Kenneth R. Esaw at DSN 627-9226 or at (800) 631-0509.



As we celebrate this year's holiday season, I want you, the men and women who carry out Air Force Materiel Command's important mission, to know how proud I am of your accomplishments in 2004. Your professionalism and dedication have helped enable and sustain the world's most capable air and space force...a team that is helping to bring hope and security to parts of the world less fortunate than the United States.

As you make plans for some well deserved time off, please be alert to insidious dangers that can occur during this time of year – winter weather, fewer hours of daylight, over-committed schedules, alcohol and fatigue. Each and every one of you is a treasured individual – treasured by your family, by your friends and by those you work with. While you're enjoying this holiday season with family and friends let's remember the important concept of being good wingmen to one another so that we will all be able to celebrate the beginning of a new year with the hope and anticipation of even greater opportunities.

I ask each of you to remember that as we celebrate our blessings, there are many who are deployed and serving around the world, many in harm's way. Please keep them and their families in your thoughts and prayers during this very special season. Although they can't be together this year, we all can help them understand that they are a part of a larger family...a family that cares about their needs and happiness.

God bless each of you, and may you and your family have a joyous holiday season.

**Gen. Greg Martin**  
Air Force Materiel Command commander

# Air Force leaders send holiday messages



U.S. Air Force photo by Sue Sapp  
The Collings family: Jared, General Collings and Jan with dog, Marcus.

With Thanksgiving behind us, the holiday season is upon us. Some of us will celebrate Christmas, some of us will celebrate Hanukkah – the Festival of Lights, and some of us will express our faith in a number of different ways.

But regardless of how you choose to celebrate the holiday season, I'd be willing to bet that faith and family are at the center of it. That's the beauty of this great nation – we are free to be different, and yet in so many ways, we are the same.

Christmas means different things to different people, but the joy the season brings is something we all share. The

holidays are a time for reflection and thankfulness. It's a time to re-charge our batteries and get re-energized for the coming year, but more importantly it's a time to focus on our families and matters of the heart.

We are a nation at war, and that makes the holiday season an especially difficult one for many people. I'm proud of every person who chooses to serve our country in times of peace and in times of peril.

I'm proud of our work force, where everybody does their job as if somebody's life could depend on it – because somebody's life does.

As you celebrate the holidays with

your loved ones, please remember our fellow Airmen serving overseas who don't have the luxury of being at home for the holidays this year. Keep them and their families in your prayers. They are making a huge sacrifice to protect our freedom.

Above all this holiday season, take time out of your busy schedule to remember the things that make life worth living. Share the gift of love and carry the light of hope.

To you and your family, from me and my family – Happy Holidays!

**Maj. Gen. Mike Collings**  
Center commander

In this special holiday season we offer our sincere best wishes to our Air Force family – our Total Force of active duty, Guard, Reserve and civilians, as well as your families who support your remarkable commitment to protect freedom and defend the United States.

You are the most important part of the world's greatest air and space force – the heart and soul of our combat capability, and the bedrock of what makes this nation great.

For those deployed, please know that you and your families are in our thoughts and prayers, and that we are enormously proud of the work you're doing. In Afghanistan and Iraq, you continue to fight terrorism while helping courageous people find the path to stability and self-governance. For those of you who serve in the United States, you defend our Republic to keep Americans safe.

At home and abroad, you give our nation priceless gifts through your service – our cherished freedoms and the opportunity to live in peace.

This is an extraordinary time to be an American and to serve in America's Air Force. We thank each of you and your families for your incomparable commitment.

Wherever you may be this season, we encourage you to pause and reflect on your faith, your family, and your friends.

We're honored to serve with you. We wish each of you a happy holiday season and blessings for a prosperous new year!

**Dr. James G. Roche**  
Secretary of the Air Force  
**Gen. John P. Jumper**  
Air Force Chief of Staff

## Commander's Action Line

**Col. Greg Patterson**  
Commander,  
78th Air Base Wing



Action Line is an open door program for Robins Air Force Base personnel to ask questions, make suggestions or give kudos to make Robins a better place to work and live.

Please remember that the most efficient and effective way to resolve a problem or complaint is to directly contact the organization responsible. This gives the organization a chance to help you, as well as a chance to improve their processes.

To contact the Action Line, call 926-2886 day or night, or for quickest response e-mail to one of the following addresses: If sending from a military e-

mail system select, Robins Commanders Action Line from the Global Address List. If sending from a commercial e-mail account (AOL, AT+T, CompuServe, Earthlink, etc.), use [action.line@robins.af.mil](mailto:action.line@robins.af.mil).

Readers can also access Action Line by visiting the Robins AFB homepage at <https://www.mil.robins.af.mil/actionline.htm>. Please include your name and a way of reaching you so we can provide a direct response.

Action Line items of general interest to the Robins community will be printed in the Rev-Up. Anonymous Action Lines will not be processed.

Security Forces.....	327-3445
Services Division.....	926-5491
EEO Office.....	926-2131
MEO.....	926-6608
Employee Relations.....	926-5802
Military Pay.....	926-3777
IDEA.....	926-2536
Base hospital.....	327-7850
Civil engineering.....	926-5657
Public Affairs.....	926-2137
Safety Office.....	926-6271
Fraud, Waste and Abuse hotline.....	926-2393
Housing Office.....	926-3776

## Base Restaurant temperature

I have just recently started going back to the Base Restaurant for lunch, but the place is so cold you can't enjoy your meal. We have complained to some of the workers about the restaurant's temperature. We were told nothing could be done to change it.

**Commander's reply:** Thank you for your patronage and

concern over the temperature conditions in the Base Restaurant. We apologize for any inconvenience or discomfort you may have experienced during your recent visits to our facilities. The low temperatures were the result of our adherence to Base Energy Policy which states that the heat cannot be turned on until we have had five consecutive days with the average daily temperature at or below 60 degrees. Due to the mild weather we have experienced this year, we did not reach the trigger day until Nov. 17. The CE shops anticipated the

trigger day and actually turned on the heat Nov. 16. We did experience problems with the facility heat exchanger Nov. 30; however, the CE shops responded and repaired the problem. We sincerely apologize for any discomfort this caused you and our other loyal Base Restaurant customers during this period.

We will monitor the temperature to ensure maximum comfort at all times and hope you will continue to enjoy the services offered at the Base Restaurant.

## Remember to slow down

There have been

803

speeding tickets issued calendar year to date.

## How the points add up

Accumulating 12 traffic violation points within a year may cause drivers to lose base driving privileges for up to 6 months. Speeding violation points are based on the number of miles over the posted speed limit.

10 miles = 3 points
11 - 15 miles = 4 points
16 - 20 miles = 5 points
21+ miles = 6 points

Source: AFI 31-204



Airmen Against Drunk Drivers is a 24-hour-service that provides rides to those who have consumed alcohol and need transportation home. The program is run by volunteers from across base, and those who use the service aren't subject to adverse action.

**To request a ride, call: 335-5218, 335-5238 and 335-5236.**

## Robins DUI tracker

Robins has adopted a zero tolerance policy for drinking and driving. In addition to an incentive for no DUIs and putting up signs to keep the message in drivers' minds as they leave the base, the Rev-Up will run weekly numbers of DUIs.

Fiscal 2003: 55 Fiscal 2004: 79 Fiscal 2005 to date: 11

Best metro format newspaper in the Air Force 2003 and Best metro format newspaper in Air Force Materiel Command 2002, 2003



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Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Public Affairs Office at Robins Air Force Base, Ga. All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated. News copy, photographs and art work should be sent to the Office of Public Affairs, Robins Air Force Base, Ga. 31098-1662, phone (478) 926-2137, no later than 4 p.m. four days before the publication date for that week. All news copy must be submitted on a diskette in a Microsoft Word format. The Rev-Up is published on Fridays, except when a holiday occurs during the middle or latter portions of the week. For advertising information, write: P.O. Box 6129, Warner Robins, Ga. 31095-6129, or phone the advertising department at (478) 923-6432.

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# Force protection barrier project alters buildings’ parking lots, enhances safety

Civil Engineer Squadron

In the ongoing effort to combat terrorism and protect vital potential targets an Anti-terrorism Force Protection Barrier Plan is presently under construction at buildings 210, 214, 215 and 220.

To provide maximum security and clearance distance of barriers from affected buildings, construction plans require that some of the barriers and bollards be installed in existing parking lot areas.

This will result in the re-

alignment of vehicular and pedestrian circulation routes and patterns, and will also shift the parking for Building 215 slightly to the south and east. Several parking lot areas east of Building 215 will be closed starting approximately Dec. 27.

A summary of affected areas and construction activities is as follows:

**Buildings 214 and 215**

■ Three rows of parking immediately east of Building 215 will be closed. The basic circulation pattern in the lot

will be unchanged.

■ New walkways and grassed areas will be installed to maintain aesthetics and expedite pedestrian traffic.

■ Traffic on the driveway west of Building 215 will be limited to emergency vehicles, handicap access, command and secured visitor traffic.

■ Existing handicap access spaces west of Building 215 will be maintained as is. New HC spaces will be designated east of Building 215 in the remaining parking area. New reserved spaces will also be

designated.

■ Parking on the drive north and northeast of Building 215 will be eliminated to allow for two-way vehicular access.

■ New pavement directional marking and traffic signs will be installed.

**Buildings 210 and 220**

■ One row of parking north of Building 210 to be eliminated (in process).

■ A new parking area to be constructed between buildings 210 and 220 for secured access parking.

■ New pedestrian walks

and open grassed areas to be installed.

■ New gates will be installed at all secured access parking lot area entries.

■ New directional signs and pavement markings to be installed.

The above construction is expected to be completed by the summer. Building occupants should plan to take an extra few minutes to reach their destinations as a result of the shifted parking.

Recognizing that this project will result in the loss of

some convenient parking spaces, Base Civil Engineering is currently considering options for adding back a small amount of parking within the barriers area to accommodate reserved and special needs parking.

CE will also be studying the impact on traffic flow and parking areas resulting from the barriers and the new main gate construction project. CE is working to ensure safe and efficient traffic flow and to maximize convenient parking.

## Huntington Village residents welcome holiday season

**By Lanorris Askew**  
lanorris.askew@robins.af.mil

The residents of Huntington Village, Robins’ privatized housing community, received an early visit from Santa during their Christmas open house Dec. 10.

According to Angela St. Clair, property manager, the six-hour event was a chance for the residents and staff to get out and mingle as well as an opportunity for the children to have some fun.

While free lawn care and a short commute to work are some of the selling points for Huntington Village, it’s the caring staff, family atmosphere and events like the open house that keeps them there.

“We do two events each year for our residents, and this year we decided on a Halloween party and the Christmas open house,” said Mrs. St. Clair. “We wanted to give the residents a chance to get to know their neighbors and the staff members, and make sure they’re aware of what’s going on inside the community.”

Mrs. St. Clair said the open house was a social gathering and a way to bring the community together.

“There are four different parks so this was a way to let everyone meet all of their neighbors,” she said. “We also want them to know that they are appreciated.”

The event included snacks and goodie bags, door prizes, games and an arts

and crafts project where the children made their own Christmas ornaments. The highlight of the day though was a surprise visit from Santa.

“It was a success,” she said. “We had very good turnout and the kids were happy to see Santa.”

As an added benefit, residents were also able to voice any concerns to staff members who were on site for the event.

They were also introduced to the latest addition to the Huntington family – an on-site police officer from the Warner Robins Police Department. As of Dec. 1, the total number of security personnel in the 670- house development was three. They all live on-site.



Courtesy photo

Susan Price, Huntington Village leasing agent, takes a photo of Staff Sgt. Vincent Lewis's son, Vincent Jr., as the sergeant's sister-in-law and Santa watch.



# White House Fellowship Program seeks applicants

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas – The Air Force is encouraging Airmen to apply for the President’s Commission on White House Fellowships.

Applicants must obtain written endorsement and authorization from their commander.

Founded in 1964, the White House Fellows Program is one of America’s most prestigious programs for leadership and public service.

There are no restrictions for age, sex, race or physical requirements. It provides first-hand experience in how the government operates.

Up to 19 people are selected each year to work full-time for one year as special assistants to senior executives in cabinet-level agencies or in the executive office of the president.

Military personnel are particularly encouraged to apply since the program does enhance executive development.

Applications may be obtained by writing to the following address:

President’s Commission on White House Fellows  
712 Jackson Place NW  
Washington DC 20503

Applicants must also meet the following criteria:

- Have 24 months time on station as of Aug. 1, 2005, or be returning from an overseas assignment from July 1 - Aug. 31;
- Have sufficient retainability to serve a three-year active-duty service commitment upon completion of the program as well; and
- Be available for reassignment.

Completed packages, to include applications and endorsements, must be post-marked by Jan. 3 and sent to:

HQ AFPC/DPAPE  
550 C St. West  
Suite 32  
Randolph AFB TX 78150-4734

Candidates will be judged on the basis of professional, academic, athletic, artistic and other accomplishments, and on their demonstrated interest in public service.

Regional finalists will be selected in March. From those interviews, national finalists will be selected. Notification from the commission will be by letter with appointments for national interviews following. The final announcement of selection as a White House fellow will be made by the president in July. Those selected will begin their tours Sept. 1.

For more information, interested Airmen can contact the local military personnel flight, visit [www.whitehouse.gov/fellows/](http://www.whitehouse.gov/fellows/), or call (202) 395-4522.

# MA employees spread holiday cheer



Courtesy photo

Maintenance Directorate employees conducted a drive to provide food and gifts for families in the Middle Georgia community during the Christmas holidays. The team provided gifts for more than 39 children and food boxes for 37 families this year. Donations were also given to other community charities. From left, Lisa Mathews and Robin Matthews prepare food boxes for area families.

# MEN AT WORK



U.S. Air Force photo by Sue Sapp

Members of the Royal Australian Air Force visited Robins' Electronic Warfare Management Directorate Dec. 6 to learn about support capabilities for the ALR-62, a radar warning receiver unique to the F-111 aircraft. The meeting allowed the RAAF to see electronic warfare capabilities in common with them and allows the two countries to share and cooperate in future endeavors. Robins handles depot repair for their ALR-62. From left is Col. Arthur F. "Art" Huber II, Electronic Warfare Product Group chief, Glenn Wahlert, Defense General Electronic Warfare director, Australian Department of Defense, and Air Commodore Roger Harrison, Air Attaché, Royal Australian Air Force.

## Web sites support deployed troops

The Internet makes it easy to support troops overseas this holiday season. To show your support, visit one or more of the following Web sites:

**Operation A/C** (Adopt-A-Soldier program also): <http://66.241.249.83/>

**Books for Soldiers:** [www.booksforsoldiers.com/](http://www.booksforsoldiers.com/)

**Operation Care Package:** [www.usocares.org](http://www.usocares.org)

**Operation Gratitude:** <http://opgratitude.com/web-site/html/index.php>

**Operation Shoebox:** [www.operationshoebox.com/](http://www.operationshoebox.com/)

**Gift certificates from the homefront:** [www.aafes.com/docs/homefront.htm](http://www.aafes.com/docs/homefront.htm)

**Letters to soldiers,** Any Service Member.org: <http://anyservicemember.org/main.html>

**Donate your frequent flyer miles,** Operation Hero Miles: [www.heromiles.org/](http://www.heromiles.org/)

**Phone cards,** VFW Operation Uplink: [www.operationuplink.org/](http://www.operationuplink.org/)

**Help Our Troops Call Home:** <https://thor.aafes.com/scs/default.aspx>

**Video greetings,** Project Homelink: e-mail [homelink@dac.redcross.org](mailto:homelink@dac.redcross.org) or call 222-6711

— *From staff reports*

# REACH program needs volunteers

Raising Educational Achievement for Children in Houston County (REACH) is a base-wide mentoring program coordinated through Big Brothers Big Sisters of Houston County.

The program encourages children in the area who have the academic ability to succeed, but are at-risk for dropping out of school.

Through the REACH program, volunteers reinforce students' reading and math skills, are role models, and help children to improve school attendance, improve

academic performance, reduce disciplinary problems, and improve self-esteem, one hour per week, during the school day.

If you have a desire to change two lives – yours and a child's, complete a volunteer application and fax it to Jywanya Smith at 926-7549.

Applications are accepted year-round. For more information, visit <http://pkec.robins.af.mil/Mentor/Mentor.htm>.

— *From staff reports*



# Chiefs’ retreat



U.S. Air Force photos by Sue Sapp

Above, Airman 1st Class Adam Jalbert folds the flag during a retreat ceremony Dec. 9 in front of Building 215. The ceremony recognized the 45th anniversary of the first 620 promotions to the rank of chief master sergeant. Below right, Tech. Sgts. Roderic and Claudia Lowe sing the national anthem.



Members of the 78th Security Forces Squadron honor guard section lower the flag as troops salute. The Robins Chiefs' Group sponsored a chiefs' flight for retreat.



Your feedback can  
strengthen suicide  
prevention program

WRIGHT-PATTERSON  
AIR FORCE BASE, Ohio –  
I am extremely concerned  
about the dramatic rise in the  
Air Force’s suicide rates.

The active duty rate aver-  
ages 15 per 100,000 Airmen,  
the highest rate since we  
implemented our current sui-  
cide prevention program in  
1996. Air Force Materiel  
Command experienced three  
suicides in a single week dur-  
ing October.

In response to this tragic  
situation, the Secretary of the  
Air Force and the Air Force  
Chief of Staff have directed a  
review of our prevention  
efforts. A leadership survey  
at [https://private.amc.af.mil/  
sg/sgpm/survey](https://private.amc.af.mil/sg/sgpm/survey) targets all  
commanders, first sergeants  
and supervisors. A second  
survey at [https://private.amc.  
af.mil/sg/sgpm/ids](https://private.amc.af.mil/sg/sgpm/ids) is provided  
for all others.

I urge everyone to take one  
of these important surveys.  
They each take less than five  
minutes to complete and will  
give us valuable feedback  
about our program’s effec-  
tiveness.

They must be completed  
by Dec. 28.

Air Mobility Command is  
collecting the data and will  
forward the results to us to  
distribute by the end of the  
year. If you have any ques-  
tions about these surveys,  
please contact the command  
behavioral health consultant,  
Lt. Col. Rob Campbell at  
DSN 986-3641 or at [robert.  
campbell@wpafb.af.mil](mailto:robert.campbell@wpafb.af.mil).

Taking care of our Airmen  
– military and Air Force  
Civilian – is our top priority.  
Please help us by taking these  
surveys. Thanks for pitching  
in!

– Lt. Gen. Richard V.  
Reynolds  
Air Force Materiel Command  
vice commander



making spirits bright



U.S. Air Force photos by Sue Sapp  
Above, members from the Robins community attend the annual base Christmas tree lighting ceremony at the chapel Dec. 8. Below right, the Robins Elementary School chorus sings songs of the holiday season. Below left, 6-month-old Richard Brown meets Santa.





# Team Robins volunteers make Red Kettle Drive a success

Every Christmas season for the past 100-plus years, the Salvation Army has run the nationwide Red Kettle Drive.

Each year, many caring souls donate thousands of dollars to help local families in need, not only during the holiday season, but year-round. Proceeds go to programs such as the Angel Tree, which matches less fortunate children with donors who purchase gifts from the child’s wish list.

Last year, the Salvation Army’s Red Kettle Drive raised more than \$60,000 in the Warner Robins area alone. Now for a third year, volunteers from Team Robins are donating their time to support this wonderful cause.

Rocketing off last year’s success, 2nd Lt. Nicholas Ferry from the Combat Sustainment Wing’s Ground Support Equipment and Vehicle Directorate is spearheading this year’s base-wide effort. Team Robins’ volunteer response has been so overwhelming that Lieutenant Ferry went back to the Salvation Army and requested an additional location. Team Robins volunteers are manning two kettles, one at the Kmart on Watson Boulevard and the other at Ryan’s Steakhouse, also on Watson.

Currently 17 points of contact from organizations all across the base have coordinated with Lieutenant Ferry. At the conclusion of the drive, it is estimated more than 120 Team Robins volunteers will have given the Warner Robins community over 150 hours of their own personal, off-duty time to man kettles at the Kmart and Ryan’s. As of Sunday, the Salvation Army has reported the total donations



Courtesy photo

Freddy and Lynn Hogg with son Casey volunteer for the Salvation Army Red Kettle Drive at the Kmart on Watson Boulevard.

from the Warner Robins community to be around \$38,000, an increase of 2 percent from this time last year. Team Robins volunteers have raised close to \$2,800 of that amount as of Sunday. The Salvation Army predicts, based on current hourly calculations,

that the total donations from the Warner Robins area will be around \$50,000 with approximately \$5,000 raised from Team Robins locations – 10 percent of the overall total.

Lieutenant Ferry and the Salvation Army would like to thank the many volunteers for their giving their spirit to the cause and making this possible, and would also like to recognize the following organizations (and POCs), to date, who have been the major players in helping make this great community service such a wonderful success:

5th CCG (Staff Sgt. Karen Nixon), LU (1st Lt. Marcus Laird), LT (2nd Lt. Josh Tolk), LM (2nd Lt. Charlynda Nyenke), 78th MDG (Tech. Sgt. Sonya Stoute), LX (1st Lt. Alfred Mulliken), EN (1st Lt. Ryan Davidson), LB (2nd Lt. Morgan Williamson), 116th MXS (Tech. Sgt. Scott Main), 19th AMXS (Master Sgt. Mike Sturick), LG (Capt. Lee Robertson), MA (Capt. Vester Adams), LE (2nd Lt. Nicholas Ferry), LS (2nd Lt. Marcus Rodriguez), AE (Lucinda Watson), MU (Paul Hibbitts), 78th LRS (Master Sgt. Brad Cooley)

The drive, which began Nov. 23, will continue through Dec. 23. If you would like to volunteer, contact Lieutenant Ferry at 222-3882 or nicholas.ferry@robins.af.mil. Anyone may participate, military, civilians, contractors and their families. Hopefully next year we will build upon this year’s success, and continue sharing our riches and blessings with our local brethren.

– From staff reports

## MOVIE SCHEDULE

Adult tickets are \$3.50; children (11 years old and younger) tickets are \$2. For more information, call the Base Theater at 926-2919.

**Today**  
**No show**  
**Saturday**  
**2 and 7:30 p.m. – The Polar Express – animated**  
Believing in Santa Claus isn’t easy when all of your friends and family insist he’s just make-believe. But a young boy’s faith is rewarded on Christmas Eve when he’s awakened by a steam train whose conductor pulls up in front of his house and takes him and other children to the North Pole to meet Santa. Rated G (General Audiences ) 90 minutes  
**COMING SOON:**  
Dec. 29 – **Spongebob Squarepants – animated –** Rated PG  
Dec. 30 – **National Treasure –** Nicolas Cage and Justin Bartha – Rated PG

## SERVICES BRIEFS

### Aero Club

Qualified commercial pilots are escorting families on flights to see area Christmas lights from the sky. Cost is \$60 per half hour or \$100 per hour for up to three people. Reservations are required. For more information, call 926-4867.

### Child Development Centers East & West

A holiday cookie project is scheduled for today at 2 p.m. Parents are encouraged to assist children with decorating holiday cookies and to enjoy the finished products.

Give Parents a Break and Hourly Care are available the first Friday of every month from 6:30 - 10 p.m. at the Child Development Center East and School Age Program (unless otherwise posted). An advance \$6 non-refundable deposit is required by the prior Monday for hourly care. Cost is \$3 per child, per hour for children six weeks to 12 years old. New enrollees must have up-to-date shot records for their children and complete required forms prior to making reservations. For more information, call 926-5805.

### Customer Feedback Survey

The annual Air Force Customer Feedback Survey will be delivered soon to Robins and given randomly to individuals throughout the base. The survey is used to measure customer satisfaction, quality of service, quality of facilities, quality of equipment and materials, value for price paid, and an overall assessment of at least 20 of the division’s major programs. Customers who take the time to answer the survey provide input

that will have a major impact on future Services programs. For more information, call Services Marketing at 926-5492.

### Enlisted Club

A New Year’s Eve gala will be held at the club with entertainment by Conquest in the ballroom and DJ Willie Nelson in J.R. Rockers. Cost is \$25 for members and \$30 for guests. The club will open at 7 p.m. with entertainment beginning at 9 p.m. The evening will be made complete with hors d’oeuvres, breakfast buffet, champagne and party favors. For more information, call 926-4515.

### Go Program

The Go program offers a variety of events, activities and discounts designed specifically for Robins’ junior enlisted force. All E -1 through E - 4s and their immediate family members may take advantage of these programs. Your Go card is your entry to all special events and must be shown to receive special discounts. Look for Go offers throughout 78th Services Division facilities during December, January and February. Make sure you carry your card. The Go patrol will be doing random spot checks and awarding prizes. Airmen who show their Go card can take advantage of the following in December:

- Get a free fountain drink, with a meal purchase of \$4 or more, at the Main Base Restaurant, Pine Oaks Golf Course, Fairways Restaurant, Pizza Depot, Robins Enlisted Club and Robins Lanes Bowling Center On Spot Café.
- Get 10 wings for half price, only

\$2.63 from 6 - 9 p.m. every Wednesday at the enlisted club. Wednesday entertainment at the club is Karaoke.

■Show your Go card every Friday in December and enjoy Thunder Alley glow-in-the-dark bowling and Rock 300 for half price as the lights go dim and the fun begins at 9 p.m.

■The first 20 people to show their Go card and to sign up for Thunder Alley glow-in-the-dark bowling today will receive a free Blockbuster card and CD case.

■Show your Go card every Friday in December and enjoy Thunder Alley glow-in-the-dark bowling for half price as the lights go dim and the fun begins at 9 p.m. Children 11 years old and younger bowl free when accompanied by a paying adult.

### Information, Tickets and Travel

During December buy one Atlanta Hawks basketball ticket and get a second one free plus a CD case. Tickets cost \$35. Watch the Atlanta Hawks versus Portland Trail Blazers today at 7 p.m., Wednesday versus Dallas Mavericks; Dec. 28 versus Cleveland Cavaliers and Dec. 30 versus Seattle Sonics. For a complete listing of the season’s games, visit ITT or www.robins.af.mil/services.

Take a trip with ITT to watch the Atlanta Hawks versus the New Jersey Nets at the Philips Arena Jan. 17 at 7:30 p.m. Cost is \$55 per person. Transportation will depart the community center at 4 p.m. For more information, call 926-2945.

ITT has tickets for the Chick-fil-A Peach Bowl 2004 for \$65 plus a \$3

convenience fee. The University of Miami Hurricanes will meet the University of Florida Gators Dec. 31 at 7:30 p.m. at the Georgia Dome in Atlanta.

### Officers’ Club

Bring in 2005 at the club with a buffet dinner, party favors, champagne at midnight and a continental breakfast. Featured entertainers will be Tommy West and the Sensations from 8 p.m. to 1 a.m. and Total Sound Productions in the main lounge from 8 p.m. to midnight. Tickets are on sale for \$40 per person. For patrons’ convenience, 20 rooms will be available at lodging. Reservations for these rooms can be made through the officers’ club cashier.

### Pizza Depot

Pizza Depot December specials include a 16-inch pepperoni pizza for \$7.95, delivery only; wing trays for \$4.95 a dozen and three-foot subs for \$20 or five-foot subs for \$30.

### Smith Community Center

Help make someone’s holiday a little happier by donating to the community center canned food drive now through Tuesday. Donations are used to create holiday food baskets to distribute to deserving Robins families. This program benefits both military and civilian employees and their families. Collection boxes are located throughout Services facilities with final collection Tuesday. Confidential applications will be accepted at the community center office, Building 767 for any one who knows of a family that would benefit from

receiving a holiday food basket. Volunteers are needed to assemble and deliver the baskets. For more information, call Lynne Brackett at 926-2105.

### Skeet Range

The new skeet range hours are Wednesday 3 - 7:30 p.m., Saturday and Sunday noon - 6 p.m.

### Wynn Dining

All active duty and retired military members and their families are invited to a traditional Christmas meal at Wynn Dining from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. Items will be priced a la carte plus a surcharge on the total meal. Spouse and dependent children of active duty enlisted members, in pay grades E-1 through E-4, are not required to pay the surcharge. Subsistence in kind enlisted members will not pay for their meals, but their family members (other than spouse or dependent children) and guests will pay the standard rate. Military members who do not live in the dorms and retirees planning to attend are asked to notify the dining hall at 926-6596 no later than today in order that food may be prepared accordingly. To see the menu, visit www.robins.af.mil/services go to Food Service.

### Youth Center

The youth center staff is pleased to announce that they are the recipients of a \$1,000 grant to support the youth football program. The grant, provided by the NFL Youth Football Fund, will be used to purchase new helmets for the youth team members. No federal endorsement intended.

## CHAPEL SERVICES

**Catholic Masses** are celebrated at the chapel each Saturday at 5:30 p.m., Sunday at 9:30 a.m., on Holy Days of Obligation at noon and at a 5 p.m. vigil the day before, and Monday through Friday at noon. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is on Saturday from 4:30-5:15 p.m.

**Protestant General Services** take place every Sunday at 11 a.m. This service includes some traditional and contemporary worship styles in music and in format. **Protestant Inspirational Services** take place every Sunday at 8 a.m. **Protestant Contemporary Services** take place 11 a.m. each Sunday at the Base Theater. This service is very informal, with a praise team assisting in singing and includes both traditional and contemporary styles of music and worship.

**Jewish service time** is each Friday at 6:15 p.m. at the Macon synagogue.

**Islamic Friday Prayer** (Jumuah) is Fridays at 2 p.m. in the chapel annex Rooms 1 and 2.

*The chapel helps with spiritual needs that arise. For further information, call the chapel at 926-2821.*

## FAMILY SUPPORT CENTER

**Family Support Center sponsored classes, workshops, and seminars are open to all Team Robins personnel. For more information or to make a reservation, call 926-1256.**

### Transition assistance

The Transition Assistance Program ensures active duty personnel are prepared to separate from the military. Classes are offered throughout the year.

### Relocation assistance

The FSC has videos on many Air Force installations around the world available for checkout. The relocation assistance program also has a Standard Installation Topic Exchange Service that has information on all military installations worldwide at www.airforcesourceone.com (user ID: airforce; password: ready). For more information, call 926-3453.

### Pre-deployment briefings

Pre-deployment briefings are offered by the FSC readiness

team at 8:30 a.m. Mondays and Fridays in Building 945, FSC annex. For more information, call 926-3453

### Airman’s attic

The Airmen’s Attic program supports junior enlisted members that are establishing a household. E-4s and below are encouraged to visit the attic to find items to help defray the cost of setting up an apartment or home. Items usually available include kitchenware, small appliances and decorative items. The attic also provides children’s clothing, toys and military uniforms. Large items such as chairs, couches, washers, dryers, entertainment centers, desks and tables are donated to the Airman’s Attic. These larger items are passed on to junior enlisted members by way of a “Wish List.” Airmen are encouraged to visit the Attic and list their needs on the wish list.

### Car care program

The Car Care Because We

Care program is open to active duty Air Force spouses when the military member deploys on assignment for more than 30 days.

Additionally, spouses of active duty Air Force members serving remote tours overseas are now eligible to use this program. Spouses may receive two certificates during the yearlong assignment. This program allows the spouse to take the primary family vehicle to the Base Service Station for free oil and filter change, (\$20 value), chassis lubrication and a safety inspection.

Certificates are issued to the spouse at the Family Support Center after verification of the member’s remote tour, TDY/deployment. If the safety inspection at the service station reveals safety concerns, the spouse may approach the Air Force Aid Society office to apply for an interest-free loan.

To receive the certificate, bring a copy of member’s orders by the FSC.

## LEAVE/TRANSFER

The following people have been approved as participants in the leave transfer program.

**Gaye Hattaway**, WR-ALC/LSAGS. Point of contact is Kim Mattox at 926-7279.

**Denese L. Abbott**, WR-ALC/MAMC-BA. Point of contact is Michael Abbott at 926-1707.

**Randy L. Barron**, LGECA. Point of contact is Michael E. Wills at 222-3067.

**Roger Steve Cadwell**, MANRXX. Point of contact is Rick Vance at 926-3414.

**Althea L. Ferguson**, DPCP. Point of contact is Linda Clouse at 926-3805 extension 205.

**Kathryn G. Mitchem**, PKXA. Point of contact is Judy Triplett at 926-5355.

**Pamela A. Rogers**, HQ-AFRC-FMAPH. Point of contact is Paul Skipper at 327-1414.

**Audrey Schmitz**, MAAB. Point of contact is John Pugh at 222-3570.

*Employee-relations specialists at 926-5307 or 926-5802 have information and instructions concerning requests to receive or donate annual leave. To have an approved leave recipient printed in the Rev-Up, directorates should send information to Angela Trunzo by fax at 926-9597, or e-mail at angela.trunzo@robins.af.mil. Submissions run for two weeks.*



# Robins raises money for youth group

By 2nd Lt Sequoiya L. Franks  
sequoiya.franks@robins.af.mil

The Top 3 Organization at Robins sponsored a basketball charity event recently to raise money for a base youth group.

Claudia Lowe and her husband Roderic Lowe led the efforts that collected more than \$300 for Drug Education for Youth.

“Our family wanted to help do something good for the children, and we feel this is a wonderful cause that will have a positive impact on the community,” said Lowe.

The Nov.19 opening event was “Hoop It Up Friday,” where base employees and dependants paid \$1 to participate in a slam dunk and free throw contest.

There were also several prize giveaways. The following Tuesday, 11 chief master sergeants teamed up to play a team of colonels, generals and senior civilian leadership. The chiefs won 40-30. In the last event of the night, the Macon-Bibb Enforcers were triumphant over the Robins Hawks 87-69.



Courtesy photo

Team Robins supports youth drug prevention program by participating in a basketball charity event.

The bulk of the donations were collected by volunteers who went into the community asking for people to sponsor the games. Lowe says the games were so successful, that Top 3 looks forward to making them an annual event.

## What to know

Drug Education for Youth is a drug prevention program for Defense Department kids age 8-13. If you would like to enroll your child or volunteer, contact Vera Seales, program manager, at 327-8408.

# Museum marathon, 5K run/walk set for Jan. 15

The ninth annual Museum of Aviation Foundation Marathon, Half Marathon and 5K Run/Walk will be held at the Museum of Aviation Jan. 15.

The foundation and the Robins Pacers Running/Walking Club sponsor the event. Proceeds from the event benefit the museum, the largest education-focused air museum in the country.

Last year more than 600 runners and walkers from all over the United States participated in the races held at Robins. The marathon and half-marathon courses are USA track and field certified, making the events qualifiers for premier national and international events like the Boston marathon.

Runners and walkers who register by Jan. 2 are guaranteed a long-sleeve sweatshirt on race day.

Trophies are awarded to the overall top three male and female finishers in each race; the overall top male and female masters in each race; the top active duty military male and female in the marathon and half-marathon Clydesdale/Athena divisions (male 200 lbs+, female 150lbs+); the top active duty military male and female in the marathon; the overall top male, female and mixed marathon relay teams; as well as the top three male and female finishers in 14 different age categories.

Each marathon and half-marathon runner

will receive a medallion with ribbon as they cross the finish line. Patriotic opening ceremonies and plenty of refreshments afterwards make this local fitness event the one to attend.

The start time for the marathon and half marathon is 8 a.m. The 5K Run/Walk will start at 8:15 a.m.

Race packets may be picked up at the Museum of Aviation Century of Flight Hangar on race day only between 6:30-7:30 a.m. A picture ID is required at registration and check-in.

Award ceremonies start at 9:30 a.m. in the Museum's Century of Flight Hangar. Entry fees are \$80 for a relay team, \$40 for the marathon, \$30 for the half marathon and \$18 for the 5K run/walk. A \$5 surcharge applies for registrations after Jan. 2.

To register or for more information, contact race director John Hunter at 926-6686 (day) or 953-5335 (evening) or at [john.hunter@robins.af.mil](mailto:john.hunter@robins.af.mil)

For museum and race information, contact Mary Lynn Harrison at 923-6600 or [marylynn.harrison@museumofaviation.org](mailto:marylynn.harrison@museumofaviation.org). Online detailed race information can be found at <http://robinspacers.org> or [www.museumofaviation.org](http://www.museumofaviation.org). You can register online at <http://active.com>

– From staff reports

## SPORTS BRIEFS

### Bowling Center

Robins Lanes can be reserved for an office party from 1 - 5 p.m. Bowl three games per bowler, plus shoes for \$4.50.

Celebrate New Year’s Eve bowling with the family Dec. 31 at 9 p.m. Cost is \$20 per person and includes bowling, snacks and party. Children 11 years old and younger bowl free when accompanied by a paying adult.

The third annual Baker tournament will be held Jan. 8. Teams consist of four people mixed with a minimum of one male or one female. Entry fee is \$60 per team. Bowl 10 games across 10 lanes and the first team to bowl a 300 game gets a \$100 bonus. For more

information call 926-2112.

A handicap doubles competition is scheduled for Jan. 17 with a cost of \$20 per couple. Handicap is 90 percent of 220. Competition takes place at 2 p.m. Also as an option, you can pay an additional \$5 and use your doubles score to enter the singles competition.

### Fitness Center

A jingle bell fun relay is slated for Monday at 10 a.m. in front of the Health and Wellness Center.

A pregnancy and exercise seminar will be held Jan. 12 from 11 a.m. to noon at the Health and Wellness Center. Register at the fitness center.

A Winter Sports Day will be held Jan. 21 from 9 a.m. - 4 p.m. Events will include indoor swimming, racquetball, volleyball, 3-on-3 basketball, table tennis and more. For more information call 926-2128.

### Golf Course

Every Wednesday in December is Ladies Day. Cost is \$13 for 18 holes, golf car and green fee.

Active duty appreciation days will be held Saturday. Cost is \$15 for 18 holes, golf car and green fee.

Attention Houston County Golf Course members, come out for a member’s fun day

today. Come be a member of the course for a day and pay members prices.

Come out and play during retiree appreciation day on Sunday. Cost is \$15 for 18 holes of play, golf car and green fee.

### Marathon volunteers needed

Seventy volunteers are needed for the Museum of Aviation Foundation Marathon/Half-Marathon/5K Run/Walk Jan. 15 at 7 a.m. Volunteers will receive a free T-shirt and a letter of appreciation for their good works. To get involved in this high-profile event that includes runners from every corner of our nation, e-mail 2nd Lt. Matt Fogarty at [matthew.fogarty@robins.af.mil](mailto:matthew.fogarty@robins.af.mil).

# Base Dental Clinic gears up for dental care optimization

**By Maj. Elizabeth M. Tandy**  
Support Flight commander  
78th Dental Squadron

Robins Dental Clinic in the 78th Medical Group is one of those chosen to undergo a Department of Defense-wide Dental Care Optimization program in 2005.

Robins’ dental clinic personnel have been busy getting ready to provide top-notch care for base personnel since last summer.

**What is DCO?**

DCO is a method of organizing processes and delegating duties in a dental practice that will provide eligible beneficiaries with increased access to high-quality and cost-effective oral health care.

**Why DCO?**

DCO will promote teamwork, continuity of care for patients and improve the dental readiness of our men and women in uniform serving here at Robins.

**What are the advantages to the patient now that DCO is coming to Robins?**

A team approach provides more personalized care for patients. Depending on your squadron, you will be assigned, or “empanelled”, to a DCO team who will be responsible for your care. Ownership ensures continuity of care and effective

management of your dental health. Your team will know your unit and will strive to maximize your unit’s readiness as well as monitor those patients who require priority care. Based on the arrangement of each team and increased operating efficiency, you can expect faster access when you need a dental appointment.

**What differences will the patients notice when they come to the dental clinic after DCO is implemented?**

Probably the most noticeable change will be the decrease in face time you have with your dentist and the increase in treatment provided by ancillary staff. Our dental support staff will be optimized by allowing them to perform non-invasive treatment that is not required to be performed by the licensed dentist. This includes direct patient treatment for follow-up appointments, making temporary crowns, making molds of your teeth as well as various tasks performed throughout your filling appointments. You may also expect that your team’s dental support staff will be involved in providing pre- and post-treatment instructions and patient education. This is similar to our civilian counterparts and the medical clinic.

**Is that safe? I have never had someone other than my dentist perform those tasks during my treatment.**

Yes. Clinic personnel have been training for a considerable amount of time to prepare the staff for these changes. As part of routine civilian assistant training in what is known as “expanded duty function,” those same tasks are performed safely every day. Your dentist may not be spending as much time in the room with you as before, but rest assured you are in capable and safe hands with our highly trained clinic staff.

**What about when I have a toothache or a dental emergency?**

Dental Sick-Call will be handled by the individual teams, and each team is developing their own plan to provide speedy care to you when you need it. After you have been assigned to a team, you can expect that your unit will receive a visit from some of your DCO team members to introduce themselves and the services they can provide to you.

**When will DCO be implemented at Robins?**

We are in the process of bringing DCO online, so look for more information about these exciting new changes coming soon in future issues of the Rev-Up.

## Medical records set to be retired, inventoried

The medical records section of the 78th Medical Group will begin its annual medical records retirement and will inventory all active duty members’ medical records beginning in January. If the date of the last medical visit has been greater than two years, the record will be retired unless one of the following criteria exists: the record is that of an active duty member (active duty medical records cannot be retired)

or a family member has been seen within the last two years (all family records will be retained at our facility). Medical records are the property of the United States government and must be maintained at the nearest military treatment facility. If you have possession of your medical records, please return them to the Medical Group. Please direct questions or concerns to Tech. Sgt. Robert Quinn at 327-8116.

## PUT YOUR HANDS TOGETHER FOR ...

The “Put your hands together for...” feature is a monthly installment to the Robins Rev-Up. Due to the overwhelming number of awards people at Robins receive, we just aren't able to cover them all. This feature is our way of ensuring we give credit where we can. The installment runs in the last issue

published each month. To have an award included in the “Put your hands together for...” page, submit a brief write up of the award and the people who have earned it. Photos may also be submitted, but space is limited. Submissions should be sent either by e-mail or brought to the Rev-Up office, Suite 106,

Building 215. Submissions that are brought to the office should be in Microsoft Word on a disk. Photos can be e-mailed or delivered to the office too. For more information, contact Geoff Janes at geoff.janes@robins.af.mil or Angela Trunzo at angela.trunzo@robins.af.mil or at 926-2137.

### >>> LG Team of the Quarter Award



Courtesy photo

The JEDMICS Engineering Data Support Team, WR-ALC/LGE, was selected as the winner of the Logistics Management Directorate, Team of the Quarter Award, for the third quarter of 2004. From left to right are Diane Burney, Sherryl Moore, Sara White, Linda Flowers, Jean Daye, Mark Moyer, Kristy Pope, Bryan Gee, Ruby Simmons, Ruby Holloway, and Sid Davezan.

### >>> Noncommissioned Officer Academy graduation

The Robins Noncommissioned Officer Academy held graduation ceremonies for Class 05-1 Tuesday at the Museum of Aviation, Century of Flight Hangar.

The guest speaker for the event was retired Sgt. Major Emmett J. Johnson, Jr., Air

Force Senior Noncommissioned Academy, Director of Education, Maxwell Air Force Base, Ala.

The top award winners were as follows:

John L. Levitow Honor Graduate:

**Tech. Sgt. Shawn Drinkard**, OL 3 Det. 3

Security Forces CE Other Distinguished Graduates:

**Tech. Sgt. Scott T. Rohde**, 51st CBCS  
**Tech. Sgt. Robbie D. Buck**, 5th CCG  
Commandants Award:  
**Tech. Sgt. Keven R. Hunt**, 54th CBCS

### >>> AFMC FM award winner

**Tech. Sgt. Michael H. Dashler**, 78th Comptroller Squadron, is the Air Force Materiel Command Financial Management

fiscal 2004 Noncommissioned Officer of the Quarter award winner. He’s NCOIC of the finance customer service section.



# Robins offers services to help with holiday stress

**By Holly L. Birchfield**  
holly.birchfield@robins.af.mil

While gift-giving, holiday parties and visits from family and friends are what make Christmas the most wonderful time of the year for some - it's a stressful time for others.

Whether you've recently lost someone close to you or you're striving to have a Norman Rockwell Christmas — the holiday season can sometimes bring more stress and sadness than good cheer.

Capt. Barbara T. Embry, chief of the Life Skills Support Center here, said sadness and loneliness are emotions common to many during the holidays, but it's important to keep your stress levels in check.

"Everyone is susceptible to (getting the holiday blues)," she said. "It's no different than a medical illness. If your immune system is low, you may have more of a chance of getting sick. With this, the more risk factors (and stress) you have, the more likely you

are to see symptoms."

Captain Embry said setting realistic goals is one way people can ease stress during the holidays.

"Ask yourself 'do I really need all of these things for the holidays?', 'Can I afford this?', 'Is this a good financial decision for me?' - People need to realize that they don't have to keep up with the Joneses," she said.

But sometimes those who get down during the holidays need a little more help from co-workers and friends to get back up again.

"Know your people," she said. "Know who has just had a break up. Know who has that financial stressor. It's important to ask how people are and truly listen to their response. We need to keep an eye out for our people because we are a family at Robins Air Force Base."

The captain added that opening one's home to friends and co-workers is a great way to help someone having a tough time.

## Where to get help

Robins offers services to help military members and civilians facing holiday stress. For more information, military members may contact the Life Skills Support at 327-8398 and civilian employees may contact the Employee Assistance Program at 327-6783, Monday through Friday from 7:30 to 4:30 p.m., or 24 hours a day at (800) 222-0364.

Lynn Irvine, consultant with the Employee Assistance Program, which offers help with emotional, relationship, financial and job-related issues civilian employees face, said it's important to know where to find help when stress strikes.

"We all experience personal problems, but many people don't know where to go to solve them," she said. "The Employee Assistance Program was established to give people the necessary resources to cope with life's difficulties."



U.S. Air Force photo by Capt. Aaron Burgstein

SOUTHWEST ASIA — Capt. C.J. Charlton scans his instruments during a C-130 Hercules flight over Iraq. He is from the 746th Expeditionary Airlift Squadron.

## Increased C-130, C-17 flights relieve Army ground convoys

**By Tech. Sgt. Don Nelson**  
Air Force Print News

SAN ANTONIO — Airmen are moving more cargo, including armored vehicles, repair parts and ammunition, to assist Soldiers in getting needed materiel to troops in the Iraq theater.

"The Air Force is clearly focusing its efforts, helping the Army give the ground forces the opportunity to reduce the traffic on the most dangerous routes," said Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John P. Jumper in Washington on Dec. 15.

During the past month, Air Force C-130 Hercules and C-17 Globemaster III aircraft carried a daily average of 450 tons of cargo, 100 tons per day more than the previous four month's average. The increase has kept the equivalent of about 400 trucks and 1,000 drivers with military escorts off dangerous roads in Iraq, officials said.

From February to November, Soldiers averaged 215 convoys per day using 3,000 vehicles. In that same

period, Air Force aircraft moved cargo that would have taken an additional 9,000 trucks and about 150 people per day, officials said.

"The increased airlift operations (in the past month) have taken about 30 more people per day off the roads," General Jumper said. "Taking the trucks off the most dangerous routes where we have most of the trouble has become (our) goal."

Since the added Hercules missions began, 44 additional armored Humvees have been flown from Kuwait to Baghdad, eliminating a three-to-four day delivery over hazardous highways and roads, officials said.

Additionally, C-17s are delivering cargo directly to western Iraq instead of dropping cargo in Baghdad for movement via convoy through that dangerous area of the country, officials said.

Air Force officials said they envision moving 1,600 tons, not including vehicles, per day into Iraq.

## Thrift Savings Plan begins catch-up contributions enrollment for 2005

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas — The Air Force Personnel Center's Benefits and Entitlements Service Team automated systems is now available for 2005 Thrift Savings Plan catch-up contribution enrollments.

"TSP catch-up contributions are additional tax-deferred contributions, separate from regular TSP contributions," said Janet Thomas, a human resources specialist at Air Force Personnel Center.

"To be eligible for catch-up contributions, employees must be age 50 or older in the year in which the first deduction from pay occurs, be in a pay status, be making regular TSP contributions at either the maximum TSP percentage or a dollar

amount that will result in reaching the IRS annual elective deferral limit by the end of the year.

"They also must not be in the six-month non-contribution period following a financial hardship in-service withdrawal," Ms. Thomas added.

Employees contributing to other eligible tax-deferred retirement programs, such as a 401k, need to be aware that the IRS annual elective deferral limit applies to the total contributed to all eligible tax-deferred retirement savings plans.

■ Catch-up contributions have their own IRS annual limit that is separate from the annual limit for regular TSP contributions. The maximum catch-up contri-

bution for 2005 is \$4,000; while the IRS annual elective deferral limit for "regular" TSP contributions will be \$14,000.

■ There is no "open season" applicable to TSP catch-up contributions, so eligible employees may start, change, stop or restart catch-up contributions at any time.

■ Employees can not designate an amount that exceeds their net pay; if they do, payroll will not withhold any TSP contributions.

■ Catch-up contributions will automatically stop with the last pay date in the calendar year or upon reaching the maximum catch-up dollar limit for the year, whichever comes first. Because the IRS annual

elective deferral limit for catch-up contributions changes each year, participants must submit a new election each year.

■ Eligible Air Force-served civilian employees may enroll for catch-up contributions via the Employee Benefits Information System Web application or the BEST phone system. EBIS is available at [www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/dpc/BEST\\_GRB/EBIS.htm](http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/dpc/BEST_GRB/EBIS.htm) or through the AF Portal at [www.my.af.mil](http://www.my.af.mil).

■ Employees may reach the BEST phone system at (800) 616-3775.

Additional information on the TSP catch-up contribution program is available at [www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/dpc/best/menu.htm](http://www.afpc.randolph.af.mil/dpc/best/menu.htm) and [www.tsp.gov](http://www.tsp.gov).

— Air Force Print News

# Museum honors former curator

The Museum of Aviation Flight & Technology Center and the Museum of Aviation Foundation unveiled an exhibit and commemorative bust in honor of former curator retired Lt. Col. Darwin G. Edwards Dec. 7.

As the museum’s curator for 14 years, he was considered by many as “Mr. Museum.” He had a tremendous depth of military and aircraft knowledge, due largely in part to more than 30 years of service in the United States Air Force. After retiring from the Air Force in 1989, he joined the museum as curator. He was responsible for adding to and preserving the museum’s collection of historic aircraft, documents, memorabilia and more than 4,000 artifacts entrusted to the museum by the United States Air Force Heritage Program.

Mr. Edwards died Nov. 22, 2003, after a brief illness.

The exhibit, located in the Rotunda of the Eagle Building, features a video kiosk, a case filled with memorabilia from Mr. Edwards’ service as a member of the 20th Special Operations Squadron and a bust commissioned by Capt. Dudley Whitman of the Hump Pilots Association in appreciation for Mr. Edwards’ dedication and service to their organization, his country and his museum.

— Heather Fasciocco



Above, Frank Cross, left, and retired Lt. Col. Chuck Dryden, an original Tuskegee Airman ,attend the exhibit opening Dec. 7 at the Museum of Aviation. Right, Mr. Edwards retired as an Air Force lieutenant colonel in 1989 after more than 30 years of service.



Courtesy photos

Former Museum of Aviation curator retired Lt. Col. Darwin G. Edwards' bust is on display in the Eagle Building rotunda. The bust was commissioned by Capt. Dudley Whitman, a member of the Hump Pilots Association.

